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ABRAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1925.

Springfield House,

Abram,

June, 1926.

To the Chairman and Members of the Abram Urban District Council.
Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my report on the Health of your Township for the year ending December 31st, 1925.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area, 1,984 acres.

Population (1921), 7,000. Estimated 1925, 6,860.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE AREA.

A low-lying district, with a clay soil and subject to mining subsidence, which makes the drainage difficult. Many parts are under water due to subsidence. A great number of houses in the district suffer from this same cause.

Number of Inhabited Houses (1921), 1,297.

Number of families or Separate Occupiers, 1,516.

Rateable Value and Sum Represented by a Penny Rate, £32,741; £136.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

This is essentially an industrial district, coal mining being the chief occupation of its inhabitants, but many of the females work outside the district in cotton mills, sweet factories, and as seamstresses.

The chief recreations of the people are football, bowling, pigeon flying and cricket.

The influence of mining on public health is marked. It predisposes the employed to diseases of the respiratory passages and digestive organs. There are many accidents causing permanent disability.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Births in 1925	129	66	63
Deaths in 1925	79	54	25

Rates per 1,000 of population.

	Birth-rate	Death-rate	Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	Rate of Deaths under 1 year to 1000 Births
Mean of 10 years				
1915-1924	22.1	13.4	.8	120
1924	17.8	10.2	1.01	89
1925	18.8	11.5	.20	85

Increase or decrease

in 1925 on—

Ten years' average	—3.3	—1.9	— .51	—35
Previous year	+1	+1.3	— .72	— 3

CAUSES OF DEATHS.

	Males.	Females.
Whooping Cough	1	
Diphtheria	1	
Influenza	1	
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	
Cancer, malignant disease	5	3
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	2	1
Heart Disease	4	5
Arterio Sclerosis	4	2
Bronchitis	7	4
Pneumonia (all forms)	7	5

Causes of Death—contd.

	Males.	Females.	
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	1	2	
Appendicitis	1	1	
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	1	
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	1	1	
Accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition other than puerperal sepsis		1	
Congenital Debility, Malformation and Premature Birth	4		
Deaths from violence	5		
Other defined diseases	7	1	
	—	—	
	54	25	

The amount of Poor Law Relief. The extent to which Hospital and other forms of Gratuitous Medical Relief are utilised.

The amount of Poor Law Relief is £1,878 7s. 2d.

The population take full advantage of Wigan and Liverpool Infirmaries, Manchester Royal, Pendlebury Children's Hospital, and the Devonshire Hospital, Buxton.

OCCUPATIONS AND ENVIRONMENT HAVING A PREJUDICIAL EFFECT ON HEALTH.

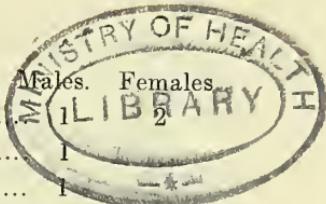
As already noted the mining industry affects the health of the inhabitants. One might also add that there are a number of Nystagmus cases among the miners.

The dampness of the district has its depressing effects on the general vitality of the people. The dampness is very obvious in the winter months when bedding and clothes are wet with moisture.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

The Council have provided an Infectious Diseases Hospital, which is entirely for their own district. It is an isolated brick building with eight beds for Scarlet Fever and Typhoid cases. There is also an iron building which stands away from the brick buildings and used for Small-pox cases to the extent of eight beds.

We have no hospital in the district to accommodate Tuberculosis, Maternity cases, or children.



There is no Union Infirmary or any other Public Institution in the district.

There is a Child Welfare Centre in the district which the Council provided. It is an Army Hut situated near the Council Offices, and meetings take place every alternate Wednesday from 4—5 p.m.

AMBULANCES.

There is a horse ambulance for infectious cases which is retained by the Council. A St. John's Motor Ambulance, which is stationed at Hindley, is for non-infectious cases, and is at the call of this Local Authority when necessary. The collieries in the district have their own horse ambulances for accidents occurring at the pits.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

A part-time Medical Officer of Health, whose salary (including bonus) is £100 per annum. Other public appointments held by him: Poor Law Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator, Child Welfare Superintendent and Superintendent of Infectious Diseases Hospital.

Other Public Health Officers of Local Authority are:

Sanitary Inspector: William Henry Roby.

Salary (including bonus) as Inspector at 31/12/25, £200.

Part-time Officer. Other appointments: Highways Surveyor and Waterworks Engineer.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector: Henry Allen.

Salary (including bonus) at 31/12/25, £200.

Part-time Officer.

Health Visitor: Florence Unsworth, C.M.B. Salary, £160.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

There is only the Health Visitor who undertakes the nursing of Measles cases, etc.

There is a District Nursing Association in the district, but it has no nurses and at present does not function. There are no arrangements between it and the Council of any kind whatever.

MIDWIVES.

There are no midwives employed by or assisted by the Local Authority.

There are five midwives in the district who are in private practice. They are quite sufficient, and their work is highly commendable.

VOLUNTARY HOSPITALS.

The workmen of the township subscribe to Wigan Infirmary and donations are sent to Manchester Royal and Pendlebury Hospital.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water supply is obtained from the Liverpool Corporation's Rivington aqueduct, and all premises in the district are connected, including cowsheds. There is an open service reservoir at Stubshaw Cross.

No additions have been made to the Sewage Works, which are designed with septic tanks and triple contact beds, producing good effluents, and no development of the sewers has taken place. These are still being affected by mining subsidence unfavourable to efficiency.

The Authority pay half the cost of converting privies to fresh water closets, three only carried out.

Scavenging is attended to by the Council in a manner generally satisfactory, though always during the daytime. The refuse is disposed of on farm lands.

No special action has been taken regarding smoke abatement, and there are no offensive trades or Common Lodging-houses.

The few Workshops, Workplaces and Bakehouses are visited periodically and few complaints needed.

School premises are in order except at Abram St. John's, where re-modelling of the outside conveniences is proposed.

Thirty-three canal boats were inspected and three infringements noted.

A specal Ladies' Committee was inaugurated during the year to assist in the administration of the Welfare Centre.

No Puerperal Fever was reported, and only one case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, which completely recovered in a short time.

The Health Visitor is instructed to visit children who develop Measles, and good results have resulted from her timely intervention and advice to the mothers.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

A. R. ERSKINE,

Medical Officer of Health.

May, 1926.

To the Chairman and Members of the Abram Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to give below a summary of the work carried out in the Sanitary Department for the year ending December 31st, 1925.

Stopped drains opened and cleaned	100
Drains re-laid and renewed	12
Ashpits and closets rebuilt	3
Defective ashpits and closets repaired	18
Dustbins and pails renewed	6
Water closets repaired	14
New water closets	1
Privies converted to water closets	3
Paving backyards and round gullies	10
Defective Wastepipes and vent shafts	20
Keeping animals as a nuisance	3
Poultry and pigeons removed from houseyard	2
Back passages cleaned and ashed	12
Defective spouts, roofs, etc., repaired	50
Houses limewashed	12
Dirty premises and foul privies	30
Over-crowding of dwelling-houses	2
Accumulation of manure and filth	4
Van dwellings in insanitary situations	3
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	305
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SEWERS.—These are kept effective by systematic cleaning and regular attention. Subsidence still taking place from mining operations and in irregular positions.

SEWAGE WORKS.—A good sample of effluent is still being produced to the full satisfaction of the Mersey and Irwell Committee's Inspectors.

The filtering material of one of the contact beds has been renewed.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

Workshops—

Tinsmith	1
Cloggers and Shoemakers	4
Joiners	2
	— 7

Workplaces—

Dressmakers	2
Baby Linen	1
Clogger	3
	— 6
Bakehouses	10
	—
	23
	—

DISINFECTION.—Twenty-five dwelling-houses and one school have been fumigated with sulphur after infectious diseases.

The following articles have passed through the steam disinfecter:—

Beds	6
Quilts	7
Sheets	9
Blankets	11
Pillows	9
Dresses	6
Coats	5
Trousers	5
Rug	1
Underclothing	30
Sundry Articles	45

NIGHTSOIL.—The number of ashpits emptied is 3,531, bins and pails cleared 4,300, and the total number of loads 2,750.

MILK AND DAIRIES (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1922.

Plans have been approved for the re-building of one shippon. Resident cowkeepers who act as purveyors number 13, cowkeepers 1, milk purveyors 2.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSE.—Much more slaughtering is now taking place than formerly. Regular inspections are made, and premises are kept in order.

NEW PROPERTY.—No houses have been erected but the Council have accepted a tender for the erection of 50 non-parlour houses on the site in Kingsdown Road already set out.

I beg to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WM. H. ROBY,
Sanitary Inspector.

COUNTY OF LANCASTER.

URBAN DISTRICT OF ABRAM.

SUMMARY of the particulars required by the Ministry of Health Circular 648, dated 10th December, 1925, to be included in the

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1925.

1.—NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres 1,984.

Population—Census, 1921, 7,000. Estimated, 1925, 6,860.

Physical features and general character of the area: Low lying district with clay sub-soil, making drainage difficult. Areas of the district are under water all the year round owing to mining subsidence.

Number of inhabited houses (Census 1921), 1,297.

Number of families or separate occupiers (Census 1921), 1,516.

Rateable value, £32,741. Sum represented by a penny rate, £136.

Social conditions, including the chief occupations of the inhabitants: This is essentially an industrial district, coal mining being the chief occupation of its inhabitants, but many of the females work outside the township in cotton mills, box works, sweet factories and as seamstresses.

The influence of any particular occupation on public health: The mining industry predisposes the workers to diseases of the respiratory passages. Accidents causing permanent disability are frequent.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Births in 1925	129	66	63
Deaths in 1925	79	54	25

Rates per 1,000 of Population.

	Birth-rate.	Death-rate.	Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	Rate of deaths under 1 year to 1,000 Births
Mean of 10 years				
1915-1924	22.1	13.4	.8	120
1924	17.8	10.2	1.01	88
1925	18.8	11.5	.29	85
Increase or decrease in 1925 on—				
Ten years' average	—3.3	—1.9	— .51	—35
Previous year	+1	+1.3	— .72	— 3

The amount of Poor Law relief; the extent to which hospital and other forms of gratuitous medical relief are utilised.—Poor Law Relief: £1,878 7s. 2d. Wigan Infirmary, Manchester Royal Infirmary, as well as Pendlebury Children's Hospital and Devonshire Hospital, Buxton, are widely utilised.

Any causes of sickness or invalidity which have been specially noteworthy in the area during the period under review; and any conditions of occupation or environment which appear to have had a prejudicial effect on health.—There are a great many cases of Nystagmus in the mining industry.

2.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Hospital Accommodation provided or available:—

For Smallpox: Iron Building and 8 beds.

Where situated: Near Infectious Diseases Hospital.

For other Infectious Diseases: Council Hospital.

Where situated: Park Lane, Abram.

Joint or otherwise: Maintained entirely by the Council.

No. of Beds available for your District: For Smallpox 8 beds.

For other Infectious Diseases: 8 beds.

Is there any Hospital Accommodation in the district for—

- (a) Tuberculosis: No.
- (b) Maternity Cases: No.
- (c) Children: No.

Give postal address of Union Infirmary and any other Public Institution in the District.—None in the district.

Have any of the following been provided in your district?—

Institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, and homeless children.—No.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres. Give day and time open.—Army Hut near Council Offices and under the control of the Council. Open from 4 to 5 p.m. every alternate Wednesday.

Day Nursery: No.

School Clinic: No.

Tuberculosis Dispensary: No.

Venereal Diseases Treatment Centre: No.

Ambulance facilities:—

- (a) For Infectious Cases.—Council provide a horse ambulance.
- (b) For Non-infectious and Accident Cases.—A St. John's Motor Ambulance at Hindley. Each Colliery has its own horse ambulance for accidents.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health.—A. R. Erskine.

Salary (including Bonus) as M.O.H. at 31/12/1925.—£100.

Is he a whole or part-time Officer?—Part-time.

Any other public appointments held by him?—Poor Law Medical Officer, Child Welfare Superintendent, Superintendent of the Infectious Diseases Hospital.

Sanitary Inspector(s).—W. H. Roby.

Salary (including Bonus) as Inspector at 31/12/1925.—£200.

Is he a whole or part-time Officer?—Part-time.

If not, what other appointments does he hold?—Highway Surveyor and Waterworks Engineer.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector(s).—Henry Allen.

Salary (including Bonus) at 31/12/1925.—£200

Is he a whole or part-time Officer?—Part-time.

Any Specialized Inspector(s) (e.g., Food Inspector)?—Nil.

Any other Public Health Officers, such as Health Visitors and Special Nurses, if any, give names, salaries, diplomas or certificates, or qualifications, and any other public offices held by them.—£160. Health Visitor. Florence Unsworth, C.M.B.

Professional Nursing in the Home.—

Nature of arrangements in the district for—

(a) General Nursing.—Nil.

(b) For Infectious Diseases, e.g., Measles, etc.—Health Visitor.

By whom provided.—Local Authority.

Is there a District Nursing Association in the District?—Yes.

How many District Nurses employed?—Nil.

If so, does any arrangement exist between the Council and the Association in respect of Child Welfare Work?—No.

If no such arrangement exists, does the Association voluntarily undertake Child Welfare Work?—No.

Does the Association undertake—(a) *Midwifery Cases?—No. (b) Monthly Nursing?—No.

(*Attendance at confinement without a Medical Practitioner.)

Has any local scheme been prepared in regard to the Supply of Food and Milk for Expectant and Nursing Mothers, and of Milk for Infants?—Milk supplied free of charge by the Child Welfare Centre in deserving cases

Midwives.—Is any midwife employed by or assisted by the Local Authority?—No.

Number of midwives on the County Council Register, 31/12/1925.—No. on Register 5. No. actually practising 5.

Any comments as to the sufficiency or otherwise of the midwifery service?—Sufficient and efficient.

Legislation in force.—Specify any Local Acts.—Nil.

Local Orders.—Nil.

General Adoptive Acts.—Public Health Act Amendment Act, 1907. Public Health Act Amendment Act, 1890. Private Street Works Act, 1892. Operate from 1909.

Bye-laws relating to public health.—Tents, Vans and Sheds.

Operative from 1916. Slaughter-houses. Operative from 1909. Paving backyards, etc. Operative from 1902. Nuisances and keeping animals. Operative from 1902.

Particulars as to co-operation with—

The medical and ancillary services of the National Health Insurance.—Usual.

The Voluntary Hospitals.—Workers and Council subscribe to Wigan Infirmary. Donations are sent to Manchester Royal and Pendlebury Hospital.

The Poor Law or other agencies.—Patients admitted into Poor Law Infirmary at Billinge. Medical Officer of Health also Poor Law Medical Officer.

3.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply—

Source and quality.—Liverpool Corporation, Rivington Works. Constant or intermittent.—Quality good; supply constant.

Approximate No. of dwelling-houses supplied.—Direct 1,297. By stand pipe nil.

Possibilities of contamination.—Open service reservoir.

Any liability to plumbo-solvent action.—No.

Any insufficiency, and where.—No.

Nature of extensions (if any) during the year.—Nil.

Rivers and Streams—

Action taken with regard to the Pollution of Streams. Sources and nature.—Nil.

Drainage and Sewerage—

Sewage Disposal Works, method of treatment.—Septic tank and triple contact beds.

What is the character of the Drainage System? Any developments during year.—Separate in main streets, otherwise combined.

Areas, or Townships, without proper drainage system.—Nil.

Action taken—Drain Testing, Flushing, etc.—Drains tested as required and sewers flushed.

Closet Accommodation at end of 1925:—

Privy Middens:—No. of Middens 524.

No. of Closets attached to these Middens 810.

- No. of Pail Closets 31.
- No. of Dry Ashpits (excluding Middens) 157.
- No. of Fresh Water Closets 488.
- No. of Movable Ashbins for refuse 61.
- No. of Waste Water Closets nil.

Conversions—

- No. of Privy Closets.—To Fresh W.C.'s during year 1925, 3; during five years 1921—1925, 12. To Pails, etc, during five years 1921—1925, 1.
- No. of Houses at which Movable Ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles during five years, 1921—1925, 4.
- Is there any definite policy at the present time for abolishing privy middens and pail closets?—No.
- Does Council contribute towards the cost of conversion?—Yes.
- If so, how much?—Half cost.
- What kind of closet accommodation is being provided for new property?—Fresh water.

Scavenging—

- Character and efficiency of the arrangements for Scavenging and Removal and Disposal of House Refuse for whole of district.—Generally satisfactory. Privies and ashpits cleaned every six weeks, bins weekly.
- How performed (state whether by Sanitary Authority, Contract, or Occupiers of Houses)?—Sanitary Authority.
- Are motor vehicles used?—No.
- If Privy Middens exist, are they emptied by day or night?—Day.
- How is the Refuse disposed of?—Levelling depressions on agricultural land.
- Has a Destructor been provided?—No.

Sanitary Inspections during 1925—

- No. of premises visited 1,900.
- Defects or nuisances.—No. discovered 280. No. abated 250.
- No. of Notices served.—Informal 60. Statutory 15.
- Legal proceedings.—No.—Nil. Result.—Nil.

Smoke Nuisance—

- Any special action taken with regard to smoke abatement.—Nil.

No. of Observations 5. No. of Legal Proceedings taken and result.—Nil.

What is the time limit allowed for the emission of black smoke per hour?—Not defined.

Offensive Trades.—

No.—Nil.

Workshops and Workplaces—

What is their condition?—Generally fair.

Common Lodging-houses—

No.—Nil.

Houses let in Lodgings—

Action taken or needed.—Nil.

Schools—

Sanitary condition.—Conveniences to be remodelled in one case.

Two yards unsatisfactory.

Water Supply, etc.—Good.

Canal Boats—

Number Inspected 33.

Number of Infringements of Acts 3.

4.—HOUSING.

HOUSING: GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS.

(I) General housing conditions in the area:—

(1) General housing conditions.—Speaking generally houses in fair condition, several being repaired under notice.

(2) (a) Extent of shortage or excess of houses.—A shortage of 100 houses at least.

(b) Measures taken or contemplated to meet any shortage.—Council have decided to erect 50 non-parlour houses.

(3) Information as to any important changes in population during the period under review or anticipated in the future.—None, tenants for new houses to be chosen from persons in lodgings in the districts.

(II) Overcrowding:—

(1) Extent.—Many houses with more than one family, but only occasionally over-crowding detected.

(2) Causes.—Industrial depression and lack of accommodation for newly-married people.

(3) Measures taken or contemplated for dealing with over-crowding.—Notices served on owner and occupier. Erection of new houses by the Council.

(4) Principal cases of over-crowding during the year 1925, and action taken.—Three families in four-roomed houses. Abated after notices and visits.

(III.) Fitness of houses:—

(1) (a) General standard of housing in the area.—Fair generally.

(b) General character of the defects found to exist in unfit houses.—In many cases defects due to mining subsidence, broken walls and floors, drawn spouts and roofs.

(c) How far defects are due to the lack of proper management and supervision by owners, or to acts of waste or neglect by tenants.—Only occasional case of defects being due to tenant's neglect or wilfulness.

(2) General action taken as regards unfit houses under—(a) The Public Health Acts.—Notices served on owners.

(b) The Housing Acts.—Notices served. One house closed.

(3) Difficulties found in remedying unfitness, either under the Public Health Acts or under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.—Mining subsidence causing recurrence of damages. Poverty of owners in many cases.

Special measures taken or suggested:—(a) Any special action to secure improved management of property by owners.—No.

(b) Better care of property by tenants.—No.

(c) The gradual carrying out of repairs according to agreed arrangements.—No.

(d) Any special method of dealing with unfit back-to-back houses, or other types of insanitary property.—No. No back to back houses.

(4) Conditions so far as they affect housing, as regards:—(a) Water supply.—Nil.

(b) Closet accommodation.—Occasional defects found.

(c) Refuse disposal.—No complaints.

(d) Measures taken during 1925 as regards (a), (b), and (c).—Notices served when found necessary.

(IV.) Unhealthy areas:—

Information as to complaints received or representations made and action taken, in regard to unhealthy areas.—Nil.

(V.) Byelaws relating to houses, to houses let in lodgings, and to tents, vans, sheds, etc.:—

- (1) As to working of existing bye-laws.—No special difficulty.
- (2) As to need for new bye-laws or revision of existing bye-laws.—New building bye-laws under revision.

(VI.) General and Miscellaneous:—

Generally, on account of any action bearing on the public health, not covered by the above particulars, which has been taken during the year by the Local Authority in connection with over-crowding, insanitary property, and housing, whether under the Housing Acts or the Public Health Acts, including any action taken by the Authority to provide information as to the proper use of household fittings (e.g., sinks, water-closets, etc.) and the disposal of household refuse so far as possible by burning.—No special action taken.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

No. of new houses erected during the year:—

- (a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b)).—Nil.
- (b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts.—Nil.
 - (i) By the Local Authority.—Nil.
 - (ii) By other bodies or persons.—Nil.

No. of houses in course of erection under Council's building scheme.—
Nil.

Financial assistance for purposes of increasing housing accommodation:—Have any advances been made during 1925—

- (a) By loans?—No. Number.—Nil.
- (b) By subsidy?—No. Number.—Nil.

Unfit Dwelling-houses—

Inspection—(1) Total No. of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).—300.

(2) No. of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925.—30.

- (3) No. of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.—1.
- (4) No. of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under (3)) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.—29.

Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices—

No. of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers—110.

Action under Statutory Powers—

A.—Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925—

- (1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.—29.
- (2) No. of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—
- (a) By owners 26. (b) By Local Authority in default of owners.

—Nil.

- (3) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close.—1.

B.—*Proceedings under Public Health Acts—

- (1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.—150.
- (2) No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—(a) By owners.— 140. (b) By Local Authority in default of owners.—Nil.

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925—

- (1) No. of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders.—Nil.
- (2) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made.—Nil.
- (3) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit.—Nil.
- (4) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.—Nil.

*Refers only to action taken in reference to housing defects. Notices with regard to drainage and other defects should be included under Sanitary Inspections.

(5) No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.—Nil.

D.—No. of houses demolished voluntarily by owners, or converted to workshops, etc.—1.

5.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.—Observations on—

(1) The wholesomeness of the milk produced within or brought into the district.—Good.

(2) The general adequacy of the arrangements for the supply and distribution of milk of pure and wholesome character.—Generally satisfactory.

(3) The administration of The Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, The Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, and The Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Orders.—Frequent inspections made. Plans approved for re-building one cowshed.

The Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923—Number of Dealers' licences issued during 1925 in respect of: " Certified " Milk.—Nil. " Grade A " Milk.—1.

No. of licences issued in respect of " Pasteurised " Milk.—Retail Distributors.—1.

Types of apparatus licensed for the pasteurisation of milk.—Nil.

Any refusal or revocation of registration of retailers or of licences for graded milk, with reasons for the refusal or revocation.—Dealer selling Grade A milk left the district.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops—

Are they periodically inspected?—Yes. What is their condition?—Fair.

Give date of the Regulations made under the Order of the L.G.B.—May 8th, 1905. Are they enforced?—Yes.

Amount of air space in cubic feet required for each cow.—

(a) Where cows are habitually grazed.—500.

(b) Where cows are not habitually grazed.—500.

Cowkeepers.—

Total No. of Cowkeepers.—14. No. on Register.—18. No. of Inspections during year.—20.

Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk (other than Cowkeepers).—

Total No. of Dairymen or Milk Purveyors (other than Cow-keepers).—2. No. on Register.—2.

Any arrangements for veterinary inspection of dairy cows?—Give particulars.—No.

Action taken as to—(i) Tuberculous Milk.—None. (ii) Tuberculous Cattle.—None.

No. of samples of milk obtained during 1925 for bacteriological examination.—Nil.

Results of bacteriological examination.—Nil.

(b) Meat.—Observations on—

(1) Meat inspection (including arrangements for inspection at the time of slaughter and for marking under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924; disease in meat and arrangements for disposal of condemned meat).—Only one slaughter-house, which is inspected regularly during slaughtering hours. Meat not marked. Condemned meat, mostly tuberculous, carried away and buried in ground on Council's own farm.

(2) Administration of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, as regards stalls, shops, stores, and vehicles.—Occasional inspections made.

(3) Has a public slaughter-house been provided?—No.

Private slaughter-houses:—

	In 1920.	In January, 1925.	In December, 1925.
No. registered ...0		0	0
No. licensed ...1		1	1
—	—	—	—
Total*.....1		1	1

*In a Rural District where Urban powers were not in force throughout the whole district in 1920, the total number in use should be given.

(c) Other Foods:—

Action taken in respect of places where food is prepared—Bakeries.—Number 10. Condition.—Satisfactory.

Other Premises.—Satisfactory.

Amount of food condemned or surrendered during 1925 as unfit for human consumption.—State approximately the weight of carcases and of parts—

Tuberculous carcases and parts.— $1\frac{1}{4}$ Cwts.

Diseased, unsound, or unwholesome meat (other than above).—
 $\frac{1}{2}$ Cwt.

Other foodstuffs.—Nil.

No. of Legal Proceedings and result.—Nil.

Food poisoning? Action taken (if any).—None.

Action taken by Local Authority (if any) in respect of—

(i.) Sale of Food and Drugs Act.—Nil.

(ii.) Condensed Milk Regs., 1923.—Nil.

(iii.) Dried Milk Regs., 1923.—Nil.

(iv.) Milk and Cream Regs., 1912—17.—Nil.

6.—PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES GENERALLY.

Note.—The Ministry of Health state the prevalence of notifiable infectious diseases during the period since 1920 should be reviewed, and noteworthy facts as to the source or spread of infection should be recorded.—Scarlet Fever is the most prevalent of the notifiable infectious diseases. It has occurred mostly in school children and the spread of infection is by contact.

Diphtheria anti-toxin.—Notes on the supply and prompt use: Always a supply in the district for use of medical practitioners.

Is a supply kept within the district?—Yes.

If so, where?—At the house of the M.O.H.

Encephalitis Lethargia.—Any special occurrence.—No.

Scarlet Fever—Discovery of "return" cases.—Negligible.

Pneumonia, Malaria, Dysentery, and Trench Fever.—Experience in regard to these diseases.—Pneumonia is the only one of these fevers which occurs in this district.

Pathological and Bacteriological Examinations—Arrangements.—Bacteriologist appointed for district.

No. of specimens examined in 1925.—Blood 2, Sputum 2, Throat Swabs 3.

Swabs for Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—Nil.

Others.—Cerebro spinal fluid in Encephalitis Lethargica.—1.

Action taken in regard to (a) Contacts, (b) Return cases, (c) Carrier cases.—Nil.

Has any use been made of the tests known as the Schick and Dick tests in diphtheria and scarlet fever respectively, or of the recently developed artificial methods of immunization against these diseases?—Nil.

Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.—No. of vaccinations performed by the Medical Officer of Health: (a) Primary.—Nil. (b) Re-vaccinations.—Nil.

If any of the following diseases are compulsorily notifiable in your district, state for what period (see Table):—Measles.

—No. Whooping Cough.—No. Diarrhoea (under 2 years).—No. Chicken-pox.—No. Any others.—Nil.

No. of times School Closure adopted during 1925 for—Whooping Cough.—1.

No. of Reports made during 1925 under Section 14 (4) Sanitary Officers Order, 1922*—Subjects of Reports.—Nil.

*Section 14 (4) requires copies of these Reports to be forward to the County Medical Officer of Health.

Influenza.—Observations on any special inquiries undertaken in connection with epidemics.—No special action taken.

Has any special attention been given to (a) cancer, (b) locally contracted anthrax, and (c) rabies?—No.

Disinfection:—

No. of Houses disinfected during 1925.—25 and 1 School.

Method (state disinfectant used).—Sulphur.

Are Houses disinfected after (a) Phthisis.—Yes. (b) Measles.—Yes.

†Apparatus used for Clothing, Bedding, etc. (steam or otherwise).—Steam Disinfector.

No. of Articles disinfected.—134.

Where is Apparatus situated?—At Infectious Diseases Hospital.

†If Apparatus at Hospital is available, is it used for the disinfection of Clothing, Bedding, etc., of Patients not removed to the Hospital?—Yes.

Any arrangement for bathing verminous, etc., persons?—Nil.

In how many instances has disinfection been carried out?—Nil.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1925.

Disease	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED										HOSPITAL			
	Total Cases at all Ages	Under 1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65	Total removed of persons belonging to Hospital to district	
Scarlet Fever	8	—	1	—	—	3	—	4	—	—	—	5	—	—
Diphtheria including														
Membranous Croup ...	4	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Enteric Fever (including														
Paratyphoid)...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute primary pneumonia,														
acute influenzal pneumonia	18	1	3	2	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	2	—	12
Encephalitis Lethargica....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Erysipelas	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Other forms of Tuberculosis	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	40	2	5	3	1	4	5	6	3	6	3	2	6	16

†TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1925.†

Age Period.	‡New Cases				DEATHS (The number of deaths classified should agree with the total sup- plied to the Register-General.)			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15—20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
35—45	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
45—55	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	2	—	1	2	2	—	—	—

†What is the ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths?—All cases previously notified.

In your opinion, is the notification of tuberculosis in your district efficient?—Yes.

Has any action been taken in cases of wilful neglect or refusal to notify?—No.

Is there any evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district?—No.

**PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS)
REGULATIONS, 1925.**

Any action taken under these Regulations (Articles 3, 5, 6, and 7) relating to tuberculous employees in the milk trade.—No necessity.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925, SECTION 62.

Any action taken under this Section.—Nil.

7.—MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.*

*This section only applies to Local Authorities carrying out Maternity and Child Welfare schemes.

The Ministry of Health state the Medical Officer's Report should include information on—

(1) The general arrangements made for attending to the health of expectant and nursing mothers and of children under five years of age, including the work of health visitors, midwives, and nurses.—At the Welfare Centre advice is given by the Medical superintendent to expectant and nursing mothers and children under five years of age. Children under 5 years of age are weighed and records kept. Midwives bring their cases if they so desire for consultation. Midwives may attend at the Centre to follow the progress of children, and some take this advantage. The Health Visitor regularly visits all cases at their homes.

(2) Consultation and Treatment Centres.—Consultations are given in the Welfare Centre situated behind the Council Offices, but no drugs, etc., are supplied.

(3) Maternity homes and hospitals and other institutions for the reception of expectant and nursing mothers and young children as in-patients.—All cases require to go to Liverpool, Manchester, or Wigan Infirmary.

(4) The incidence of maternal mortality and investigations into maternal deaths, still-births, and infant deaths.—The maternal mortality is low having had only 1 case in 3 years. There were 5 still-births in 1925, more than half being premature births. Eleven infants died. All these cases are investigated by the Health Visitor and reported to the Medical Superintendent of the Centre.

(5) The development of ante-natal work at Centres and in connection with the midwifery service where this has proved practicable.—Owing to unsuitable accommodation at the Centre ante-natal work with the Midwifery service can only be carried out in a very limited degree.

(6) Methods of dealing with unmarried mothers and illegitimate children and with children permanently or temporarily deprived of a home with their own parents.—No cases have arisen.

(7) The arrangements for the supply of food and milk.—After investigation ante-natal cases, nursing mothers and infants are supplied with milk, free of charge, in necessitous cases.

(8) The arrangements for orthopaedic treatment in areas in which such treatment is provided for children under 5 years of age.—Orthopaedic treatment for this district is carried out at Wigan Infirmary, Manchester, and Liverpool.

(9) The work of voluntary societies in the area in connection with maternity and child welfare and the place occupied by each in the Local Authority's scheme.—The assistance of Midwives is encouraged, and a special Ladies' Committee appointed.

(10) The co-ordination of all the work under this sub-section with the School Medical Service.—Not co-ordinated.

(11) Observations on the incidence of puerperal fever, ophthalmia neonatorum, measles, whooping cough, epidemic diarrhoea, poliomyelitis, and other infectious diseases of parturient women, infants, and young children, and the method adopted to diminish the mortality and permanent injury to health caused by these diseases, and the results achieved by these methods.—There have been no cases of puerperal fever. One case of ophthalmia, which completely recovered in a short time under medical treatment. Measles cases are visited by the Health Visitor, and good results are achieved by her timely intervention in advising the people to the best of her ability.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Details should be given for all County districts in the following table of each case of ophthalmia neonatorum notified during 1925.

Number Notified	Cases Treated		Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
1	At Home	In Hospital	Yes	Yes		
1	Yes		Yes			

Sanitary Improvements during 1925.—No special work.

Sanitary Requirements of District.—Renewal of sewers, etc., at Plank Lane and Bickershaw. Improvement of sanitary conveniences and playgrounds at two schools.

Signed,

A. RALPH ERSKINE,

Medical Officer of Health.

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